

# News from Ed Markey

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **29 DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS CALL ON BUSH TO END NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS TO NORTH KOREA**

*Markey letter urges cancellation of nuclear reactor construction*

**Washington, DC:** Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-proliferation, today released a letter to President Bush, signed by 28 other Democratic lawmakers, calling for a halt to plans to transfer two nuclear power plants to North Korea in light of recent revelations that North Korea has been conducting a clandestine nuclear weapons program in violation of international law. The technology and expertise required to build nuclear power plants has facilitated the development of nuclear bombs in other countries.

"Canceling plans to ship two nuclear reactors to a country that has violated international law by maintaining a covert uranium enrichment program should be a no-brainer," said Rep. Markey, adding "It is time for the Bush Administration to unambiguously announce that the U.S. will not support continued construction of these two nuclear power plants." The House lawmakers' letter strongly urged President Bush to stop the sale of light water nuclear reactors to North Korea and to call on Japan and South Korea to do the same. The letter also urged President Bush to renew efforts to put an end to the sale of six nuclear reactors by Russia to Iran.

Recent press reports indicated that when confronted by U.S. diplomats with intelligence information about its covert nuclear weapons programs, North Korea acknowledged the existence of these programs. Rep. Markey, the co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation, has long been concerned about North Korea's efforts to acquire nuclear explosives and has cosponsored legislation aimed at tightening controls over any future nuclear technology transfers to that country.

Rep. Markey concluded, "At a time when the U.S. is preparing for a possible war with Iraq over its suspected nuclear program, it seems to us that the least the Bush Administration should be able to do in response to North Korea's violations of its nuclear nonproliferation commitments is to cancel the North Korean reactor project."

The letter sent was signed by Representatives Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Melvin Watt (D-NC), Howard Berman (D-CA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Michael Capuano (D-MA), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), Martin Frost (D-TX), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI), John Lewis (D-GA), William Lipinski (D-IL), Jim McDermott (D-WA), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Cynthia McKinney (D-GA), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), James Maloney (D-CT), Carrie Meek (D-FL), George Miller (D-CA), Richard Neal (D-MA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Nick Rahall (D-WVA), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Robert Underwood (D-GU), Peter Visclosky (D-IN), Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Diane Watson (D-CA).

Copies of all correspondence can be found at <http://www.house.gov/markey/>

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